



HALIFAX'S CULINARY SCENE HEATS UP: CITY'S BEST CHEFS NAMED TO COMPETE IN GOLD MEDAL PLATES EVENT TO SUPPORT CANADIAN OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC ATHLETES

October 1, 2007

Organizers of the prestigious Gold Medal Plates event announced today that Halifax's nine best chefs will be competing against the clock and each other at this season's most exciting gala event to be held Tuesday, October 23 at the World Trade and Convention Centre, 1800 Argyle St. The event will support Canadian Olympic and Paralympic athletes. The gold medal chef will then represent Halifax at the Canadian Culinary Championships to be held in Toronto in February 2008 over an intense three-day national competition.

"This event is a celebration of excellence that applauds Canada's Olympic and Paralympic athletes and showcases the culinary talent of Nova Scotia's finest chefs," says event co-chair Fred MacGillivray, President and CEO of Trade Centre Limited. "Gold Medal Plates inspires the community to support and cheer on our athletes as they strive for the podium."

The following chefs have been selected by Halifax's top food and wine critics and will compete for gold, silver and bronze medals:

Craig Flinn - Chives Canadian Bistro	Tony Hiltz - Trinity
Michael Howell - Tempest	Ron MacMaster - Ryan Duffy's
Sam Jaggi - Taj Mahal, Thai Chin, French Quarter	Tahir Salamat - Onyx
Martin Ruiz Salvador - Fleur de Sel	Terry Vassallo - Trattoria Della Nonna
Christophe Luzeux - Windows at the World Trade and Convention Centre	

Each chef will be paired with an Olympic or Paralympic athlete to create their ultimate dish, which will then be assessed by a panel of judges. Last year's gold medal chef from Halifax, Ray Bear, will be a guest judge and will be inducted into the Gold Medal Plate Hall of Fame during the event, which will be hosted by two-time World Curling Champion and CBC personality Colleen Jones.

Some of the paired athletes already confirmed, whose skill and agility will be put to the test as they play the role of sous chef, are:

Karen Furneaux	Canoe Kayak	
Jillian D'Allesio	Canoe Kayak	
Richard Dalton	Canoe Kayak	
Stephen Giles	Canoe Kayak	Olympic bronze medallist
Lisa Ross	Sailing	
Julia Rivard	Canoe Kayak	
Peter Giles	Canoe Kayak	
Adam van Koeverden	Canoe Kayak	Olympic gold and bronze medallist

Guests will also enjoy silent and live auctions that boast some of the most sought-after prizes available today.

Jennifer Heil, 2006 Olympic gold medallist in freestyle skiing, will cap the evening with a motivational presentation that best exemplifies the goal of Gold Medal Plates.

“Being a part of Gold Medal Plates all across this country is very special. I have seen the passion and enthusiasm that all Canadians have toward helping our future Olympians and Paralympians reach their goals,” says Catriona Le May Doan, Olympic Gold Medallist in Speedskating and Gold Medal Plates 2006 presenter. “These dinners are about fundraising, but also about the awareness of how much pride our athletes put into spending a good part of their lives training to be a part of the Olympic and Paralympic movement.”

Since its inception, Gold Medal Plates has donated more than \$1.5 million to support Canadian Olympic and Paralympic athletes and has elevated the profile of Canadian cuisine and wine.

For a complete listing of competing chefs across the country visit goldmedalplates.com . To enquire about corporate tables and event tickets for the Halifax fundraiser please contact Caroline Flinn at 902-422-6277 ext. 7.

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